

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJ: 1978 ELECTIONS: MARCOS LAUNCHES "NEW SOCIETY MOVEMENT"

REF: MANILA 1747

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS INVITED LEADERS OF HIS PRE-MARTIAL LAW POLITICAL PARTY TO MALACANANG FEBRUARY 1 TO LAUNCH A PRO-GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE KNOWN AS THE KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN (NEW SOCIETY MOVEMENT) TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN THE APRIL 2 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. MARCOS EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW GROUP WILL NOT REPLACE THE NATIONALISTA PARTY (NP), BUT RATHER WILL BE A COALITION OF PRO-MARCOS ELEMENTS, INCLUDING NOT ONLY NP'T BUT SOME LIBERALS AND MEMBERS OF CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS.

2. THE FOUR-HOUR MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY SUCH OLD SOCIETY NP STALWARTS JOSE ROY, JOSE B. LAUREL, GIL PUYAT, CORNELIO VILLAREAL, AND ARTURO TOLENTINO, AS WELL AS BY KEY MARCOS POLITICAL LIEUTENANTS SUCH AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARY JOSE RONO, LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL ESTELITO MENDOZA. THE MANILA PRESS CALLED IT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NP LEADERSHIP IN FIVE YEARS. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT A FEW LIBERALS ATTENDED THE MEETING BUT DID
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NOT IDENTIFY THEM. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF LP MEMBERS HAVE BECOME MARCOS LOYALISTS OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS WITHOUT FORMALLY GIVING UP THEIR PARTY AFFILIATION. END COMMENT

3. THERE IS STILL NO DEFINITE WORD ON WHEN THE PRO-MARCOS SLATE OF CANDIDATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED. TIMES JOURNAL REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS ASKED REGIONAL LEADERS TO

SUBMIT THEIR NOMINEES TO HIM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 7,
BUT SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS
ALREADY RECEIVED LISTS OF SUGGESTED CANDIDATES.THE PRESS
ALSO REPORTED FEBRUARY 2, WITHOUT EXPLANATION, THAT THE
PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED A SUGGESTION BY MRS. MARCOS THAT
A PRIMARY BE HELD FEBRUARY 14 TO DETERMINE PRO-MARCOS
CANDIDATES FOR METRO MANILA. (AS OF NOW, FEBRUARY 14 IS
FINAL DAY FOR FILING CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY.)
NEWSOM

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